

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-20 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 18 are independent.

Amendments have been made to the Drawings, and claims 1-20 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document from the International Bureau.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 18, 2009, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figure 9 has the reference number 66 which does not appear in the specification.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicants are concurrently submitting a Replacement Drawing Sheet for the Examiner's approval, which addresses the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 18 because of a grammatical error. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claim 18 in order to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-8, 11-15 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, as being obvious over US 6,460,382 (Kim et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

The Examiner states that the rotor of Kim et al. is injection molded and that the structure set forth in the claims, reciting insert molding, is inherently taught by Kim et al. In the alternative, the Examiner states that the use of insert molding instead of injection molding would have been obvious. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner correctly points out that a product by process claim is directed to a product, no matter how actually made. However, the method has to be considered to the extent that the structure is affected by the recited method. In this instance, Kim et al. discloses fastening holes 137 to receive bolts 15a to secure the rotor to the connector. In the insert molding process, the rotor is within the mold when resin is introduced, bonding the resin to the rotor. The resin flows around and is bonded to the rotor, resulting in a structure different than that of Kim et al.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a direct drive motor including a stator having a winding portion with coils wound thereon, a rotor fixedly connected to a washing shaft for direct drive of a drum, the rotor having a sidewall, and a rear wall with a pass through hole at a center, and a connector of a material having a vibration mode different from the washing shaft, insert molded at the center of the rear wall of the rotor to form one body with the rotor, and fixedly connected to the washing shaft to connect the rotor to the washing shaft, and support the washing shaft. The rotor has a bonding piece for enhancing bonding forces between the connector and the rotor.

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kim et al.

Claim 1 now recites that the rotor has a bonding piece for enhancing bonding forces between the connector and the rotor. The Examiner has indicated that claim 9, 10, 16 and 17

contained allowable subject matter. These claims are directed to a bonding piece in a pass through hole in the rotor, the bonding piece projected in a length direction of the washing shaft or the rear wall having the bonding piece around the pass through hole in the rotor, the bonding piece projected in a length direction of the washing shaft. As noted above, Kim et al. discloses the connection of the rotor to the connector by bolts, therefore there is no need for bonding pieces on the rotor as Kim et al. relies upon a different method of connection. The recitation of a bonding piece in claim 1 defines the invention over the prior art, including Kim et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kim et al., for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-10, Applicants submit that claims 2-10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-10 are allowable. In addition, these claims recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 18 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons set forth for claim 1. With regard to dependent claims 12-17 and 19-20, Applicants submit that claims 12-17 and 19-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11 or 18 which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 12-17 and 19-20 are allowable. In addition, these claims recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. However, claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time, since it is believed that independent claims 1 and 11 from which these claims depend are allowable.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chris McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: DEC 23 2009 Respectfully submitted,

By David Belord DAVID A. BILODEAU
James T. Eller, Jr. JM USPTO #42,325
Registration No.: 39,538
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant